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Paper No. 14

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**COPY MAILED**

**AUG 22 2008**

In re Patent No. 5,835,868 :  
Issue Date: November 10, 1998 :  
Application No. 08/705,652 :  
Filed: August 30, 1996 :  
Patentee(s) Alejandro S. Mcelroy et al :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed July 25, 2008, to accept the delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

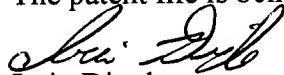
The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. In the event that such an inquiry has been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay in paying the maintenance fee under 37 CFR 1.378(c) was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Petitioner will not receive future correspondence related to maintenance fees for the above-identified patent unless a fee address@ (see PTO/SB/47) is submitted for the above-identified patent.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

The patent file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

  
Irvin Dingle  
Petitions Examiner  
Office of Petitions

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